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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/396,381	09/15/1999	SHUNPEI YAMAZAKI	0756-2027	7365

7590

02/11/2002

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EXAMINER

ANGEBRANNDT, MARTIN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1756

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2002

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MF-14

Advisory Action

Application N .

09/396,381

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Martin J Angebrannt

Art Unit

1756

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

THE REPLY FILED 28 January 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 5 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☒ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): See Continuation Sheet.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

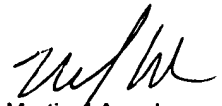
Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-167.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☒ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 13.
10. ☐ Other: _____


Martin J Angebrannt
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1756

Continuation of 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): Rejections based at least in part upon either Yamada et al. 02-301034 (listed as Amada et al. 04-230034) or JP 02-058744.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: With respect to the rejections based at least in part upon Miyamoto JP 04-219647, Hirayama et al. JP 04-355228 or Brezoczky et al. '229, the carbon films are the outermost layer and there is ample motivation to use the materials of the secondary references to form coatings with reduced pinhole, increased density, increased hardness, increased wear resistance, peeling resistance and/or corrosion resistance. The issue of the instant claims being directed to the method of use, while the claims of patent 6,171,674 and application 09/396382 (now allowed) is appropriate as it would be obvious to use the articles claimed therein in the sole manner disclosed. The references supplied on the PTO-1449, particularly jp 02-0649939, 62-202629, 64-046221, 04-265516, 01-253819 and 63-003077 may have a bearing on the patentability of the claims, but do not warrant additional rejections at this juncture..